The Lofty Claims of Jesus: The Son of Man

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**Foundational Scripture:** Dan. 7:13-14; Mk. 14:61-64

**Intro**:

* Jesus claimed to be more than a mere man born of a woman. It was without a doubt that He historically existed and walked this earth. However, it is the purpose and behavior of his relatively short life that comes under severe scrutiny of the microscope leading to countless debates and controversies. Jesus’ claims were by no means considered to be insignificant or baseless. On the contrary, they would spark jealousies, envies and hatred leading to His condemnation and death. Over the course of His three-year ministry, He would attach Himself over and over again to a divine nature in one way or the other. He would quote the OT scriptures and apply them to Himself. He claimed to be the fulfillment of all the prophecies and the fullness of God’s plan for salvation and eternal life. Jesus in short, claimed to be the Messiah, the Christ, who would save man from his sin and reconcile them with God.

**Jesus claimed to be “The Son of Man:”**

1. **He is the Messianic King**
	1. There is no doubt that Jesus’ use of the Danielic passage is indicating He is indeed the Messianic King the Jews were waiting for but ultimately rejected (cf. Jn. 18:36). Jesus had never directly claimed to be the Messiah in Mark’s gospel until this point because He understood it would be the signature to His death sentence.
	2. The Messianic King was this Son of Man figure presented before the Ancient of Days thus inviting the audience to consider the conveyance of God’s approval and God’s purpose on that particular character. Jesus’ use of this passage indicates that He was that character thus causing the religious leaders to become bitterly angry (cf. Jn. 8:33, 39, 41).
	3. In addition to all this, Jesus’ use of the passage pointed out something else that was both striking and controversial. His Kingdom was not a physical one but a spiritual one. That He was about to be killed and the Romans hadn’t fallen yet was a knock against His claim to be the Messiah, the Son of Man. Furthermore, since the religious leaders didn’t recognize Him as such and they hadn’t witnessed a physical manifestation of the Kingdom, there was no way He was the Messianic King.
	4. The Messiah was clearly associated with an exalted position of honor and power indicated by the phrase *“Sitting at the right hand.”* Jesus claimed to be the exalted , honorable Son of Man yet He ate with sinners and washed people’s feet. How could He be the Messiah?
	5. The Messiah’s glory and exalted position would come ultimately through His service, selflessness, suffering and sacrifice (Jn. 17:1-2; Rev. 5). The religious leaders including most of the Jews did not want a part of this king of Messiah, therefore they rejected Him.
2. **He is the Sovereign Judge**
	1. The second aspect of Jesus’ claim pertains to Him being the Sovereign Judge. It was well established that this role belonged to the divine Yahweh but Jesus claims this for Himself. Either He is ludicrous or His claims are legitimate.
	2. The glorified Messiah is clearly given this role by God (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 1:7) after His death and resurrection. He is precisely worthy to be the judge because of what He underwent for salvation’s sake.
	3. His claim of being the Son of Man, the Messianic King, does not need further corroboration than His statement concerning His second advent. His return is the guarantee that will forever attest to the reality that He is both God and Man, the One and Only Messiah: **The King of kings and Lord of lords.**
	4. Our responsibility to these legitimate claims is important. We can either exhibit the attitude of the Pharisees in John 9 who blinded themselves because of their pride and self-righteousness or we can, like the blind man, open our eyes to the reality of who Jesus is and submit to Him.

**Sources:**

McDowell, J. *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999.